AMENDMENTS OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tubular suture reinforcement material for an automatic suturing device,

wherein the tubular suture reinforcement material is formed by stacking two sheet-like materials and sewing together both ends of the two sheet-like materials using two chain stitches ~~(intralooping stitches)~~,

wherein said chain stitches comprise a plurality of loops in which one of said loops passes through an adjacent loop in a direction away from a sewing end, thereby providing intralooping stitches,

wherein, ~~each thread end at each sewing end is suitably extended, and~~ at the sewing end, a loop next to the sewing end does not pass through another loop anterior to the loop next to the sewing end, and

wherein ~~the~~ a thread end at the sewing end ~~is passed~~passes through ~~an anterior~~the loop next to the sewing end, which is continuous to the thread end, thereby preventing the thread from unraveling without tying a knot at the ~~anterior loop~~sewing end and is returned to the sewing end after passing through the ~~anterior~~ loop next to the sewing end.

2. (Original) A tubular suture reinforcement material for an automatic suturing device according to Claim 1, wherein the tip part of the suture reinforcement material is sewed in a tapering manner or sewed into a bag-like shape.

3. (Original) A tubular suture reinforcement material for an automatic suturing device according to Claim 1, wherein at least one portion of the sheet-like material is made of at least one member selected from the group consisting of knitted materials, woven materials, nonwoven fabrics, and film, the at least one member being made of a biodegradable and bioabsorbable material.

4. (Original) A tubular suture reinforcement material for an automatic suturing device according to Claim 1, wherein the sheet-like material and a stretchable knitted material or woven material are stacked into a tubular shape.

5. (Original) A tubular suture reinforcement material for an automatic suturing device according to Claim 1, wherein a projection is formed on the sewing end portion of the one or two sheet-like materials forming the tubular shape.

6. (Previously presented) A tubular suture reinforcement material for an automatic suturing device according to Claim 1, wherein extended thread ends at the sewing end are tied in the shape of a loop.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a tubular suture reinforcement material for an automatic suturing device comprising:

stacking two sheet-like materials,

sewing together both ends of the two sheet-like materials using two chain stitches, wherein said chain stitches comprise a plurality of loops in which one of said loops passes through an adjacent loop in a direction away from a sewing end, thereby providing intralooping stitches, said ~~(~~intralooping stitches~~)~~ suitably extending each thread end at each sewing end,

at the sewing end, having a loop next to the sewing end not pass through another loop anterior to the loop next to the sewing end, and

passing the thread end at the sewing end through ~~an anterior loop~~ the loop next to the sewing end, which is continuous to the thread end without tying a knot at the ~~anterior loop~~sewing end, wherein the thread end is returned to the sewing end after passing through the ~~anterior~~ loop next to the sewing end.

11. (Original) An automatic suturing device, comprising a cartridge containing staples and a frame equipped with a staple receiving slot, wherein a tubular suture reinforcement material for an automatic suturing device according to Claim 1 is fitted to the cartridge and/or the frame.

12. (Previously presented) A method for removing a lesion from an affected region of a patient,

suturing said affected region with a tubular suture reinforcement material according to Claim 1,

cutting off the lesion from normal tissue in the affected region, and

removing said lesion along with a part of said suture reinforcement material while leaving another part of said suture reinforcement material in the patient.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the affected region comprises a soft tissue.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the affected region comprises pulmonary tissue.